



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

# HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA

UNIT #15237  
APO AP 96205-5237

11 SEP 2008

FKCC

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: US Forces Korea (USFK) Command Policy Letter #9, Suicide Prevention

1. This policy supersedes USFK Command Policy #9, Suicide Prevention, dated 20 June 2006. It remains in effect until specifically rescinded or superseded.
2. References.
  - a. DoD Directive 6200.4, Force Health Protection, 9 October 2004.
  - b. USFK REG 600-30, Suicide Prevention Program, 19 January 1994.
  - c. DA PAM 600-24, Prevention and Psychological Autopsy, 30 September 1988.
  - d. AFPAM 44-160, Air Force Suicide Prevention Program, April 2001.
  - e. OPNAVINST 1720.4, Suicide Prevention Program, 28 December 2005.
3. This policy applies to all USFK personnel and family members.
4. Suicide is an irreversible decision that horrifically effects the individual's family, friends, associates, and unit. This tragic and traumatic loss, disrupts unit cohesion and weakens unit morale. We can prevent this needless and tragic loss by learning to recognize suicide warning signs and by taking immediate action to ensure that anyone exhibiting suicidal signs, gets help. Suicide prevention is the responsibility of every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, civilian, contractor and family member living and working in the Republic of Korea. All military and civilian leaders must learn to recognize and respond to suicidal behavior.
5. Service Component Commanders are responsible for ensuring that suicide awareness and prevention training is conducted for all USFK military personnel at least annually, documenting that training in accordance with respective Service regulations. Commanders should take full advantage of emergent approaches to suicide prevention and training such as the Army Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Intensive training programs for selected unit personnel provide skills for early recognition and intervention of suicidal behavior, and can effectively multiply the command's eyes and ears. Unit chaplains and ministry teams also provide a great resource for commanders in recognizing potential suicidal behavior, as well as in leading / providing suicide prevention training.
6. When recognizing that a Service member is showing signs of thoughts or behaviors associated with suicide, the commander will promptly refer the Service member to the servicing

*This letter can be found at <http://www.usfk.mil>*

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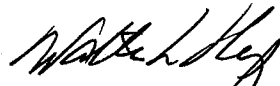
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mental-health agency. Before taking this referral step, commanders should consult with their mental-health provider to ensure that their actions are consistent with appropriate Service policies. Once a Service member is referred, the commander will ensure that the individual shows up for all scheduled appointments. The mental-health agency treating the Service member will then keep the commander informed of the Service member's status, as appropriate and within the limitations of the Privacy Act and licensing requirements for mental-health providers. Upon release from a physician's direct care, leaders in the Service member's chain of command must be particularly attentive to the Service member's needs. This is a high risk period for the individual and requires that leaders show compassion and understanding.

7. Area & Installation Commanders in the Republic of Korea are responsible for providing community support services to installation and tenant activity Service members, civilian personnel, and their families that encompass suicide prevention, education, response / treatment.

8. I charge each of you to become personally involved in preventing suicide, and I expect leaders at every level to ensure that people who need help get it and get it fast. I further challenge you to remove the stigma attached to seeking mental health services. The vigilance of unit leaders, chaplains, and medical personnel is key to early detection of suicide risk. As suicide prevention directly contributes to the well-being of our Service members, this program has my complete support. I expect it to have yours as well.

9. POC for this policy letter is J1, Personnel Policy and Programs Branch, DSN 723-4718, [usfkj1jmod@korea.army.mil](mailto:usfkj1jmod@korea.army.mil).

  
WALTER L. SHARP  
General, U.S. Army  
Commander

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